

THE INFRASTRUCTURE ACT ON PASSENGER AND FREIGHT
RAIL

Provides \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail, tripling funding for Amtrak, allowing for enhanced service, ADA upgrades, and investments to renew and support service on the Northeast Corridor and long-distance and state-supported routes;

Provides funding for corridor planning and development of high-speed rail projects, reducing traffic congestion and shortening travel times;

Improves rail safety by addressing highway-rail grade crossings needs, requiring additional rail safety inspectors, addressing trespasser and suicide fatalities, and eliminating gaps in railroad safety; and

Creates a federal blocked crossing program to collect data and enforce a 10-minute blocked crossing limit.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE ACT ON DRINKING WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSISTANCE

Authorizes \$55 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the primary source of federal funding for safe drinking water infrastructure;

This investment in drinking water infrastructure, will help eliminate the Nation's lead service lines and pipes, thereby delivering clean drinking water to up to ten million American families and more than 400,000 schools and child care facilities that currently do not have it, including in Tribal nations and disadvantaged communities;

As many as 10 million lead service lines are currently in use, including an estimated 400,000 schools and child facilities with lead components; and

The legislation also strengthens drinking water standards and improves the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to set those standards, and directs EPA to set health-protective national standards for PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and microcystin toxin within two years.

In addition, the legislation provides:

1. \$15 billion in zero emission and clean buses and ferries and builds the first-ever national network of electric vehicle chargers in the United States, in order to address the adoption of electric vehicles and support domestic manufacturing jobs;

2. \$42 billion to modernize our airports, ports, and waterways;

3. \$50 billion to weatherize our infrastructure and insulate it against the threats of droughts, floods, and wildfires;

4. \$65 billion to upgrade our power infrastructure to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy;

5. \$21 billion in environmental remediation, making it the largest investment in addressing the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods in American history; and

6. \$65 billion to connect every American to reliable high-speed internet, building on the billions of dollars for broadband deployment in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

To put it all in perspective, Madam Speaker, although we already passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, we now have a once-in-a-century opportunity to make gigantic progress in making ours a more perfect union, and to do it in a single bound with enactment of the Build Back Better Act, the most transformative legislation passed by this Congress since the Great Society and the New Deal.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor Jim Justice of West Virginia who said colorfully earlier this year:

"At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now."

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BREAKING NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE). She is the second vice chair of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus. She is also one of the co-chairs of our Women's Caucus.

At this time, I would like to say to my colleague and to my friend: Thank you for your leadership, and thank you for your strong voice.

As a former mayor, we know she is used to leading, guiding, and speaking out.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my CBC colleague, my CBC chair, an amazing leader for our country, JOYCE BEATTY, for leading this Special Hour. I also want to thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, my colleague and mentor. She is just amazing.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Build Back Better. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a transformational change for women, for families, and for communities of color.

Abigail Adams wrote a strong letter to her husband, John Adams, "Remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

Today, I stand on the floor so proud and blessed to say that we have President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, who are laser-focused on helping women and families in Michigan and across the country.

We are talking about remembering women and women of color. From affordable childcare, eldercare, expanding the child tax credit, and providing universal pre-K, this agenda lifts women out of poverty and educates our children while lowering costs.

I want to be very clear as we stand here today as the Congressional Black

Caucus, Black women in America carry the highest amount of student debt in America. So when we talk about Pell grants, this has a direct impact for Black women in America. When we talk about childcare and eldercare, women are the predominant workforce in eldercare and childcare, and they are disrespected with one of the lowest salaries for employment in the country.

Let's talk about expanding the child tax credit. We know that for single women heads of households and families who are struggling to work and put their children in safe and affordable childcare, this is transformational.

Madam Speaker, I had a father text me. We were on a Zoom townhall on this issue of childcare. He said: Congresswoman, I pay more for childcare than I do for the mortgage of my home.

□ 1945

This is transformational. When we talk about build back better, we are not talking about going back to a time in history. We are talking about being transformational and visionary and planning and plotting a path to success for all Americans. We know it is women—we saw this very clearly during the pandemic—who are bearing the brunt of all of these social challenges and Black women being in the top of that group bearing the brunt of this pandemic.

It is Black and Brown women who disproportionately make up our childcare workers, and, again, I emphasize making poverty level wages. We can't turn a blind eye to this. The Black Caucus will not be quiet. The Women's Caucus will not be quiet. We know that when we lift women—when we lift Black women—out of poverty, we are changing the economic structure in America. There are women who work two jobs—one to pay for childcare and one to pay for the mortgage, food, and shelter. I want you to know, Madam Speaker, that the Build Back Better plan builds back better for women and families, and it is time to get it done.

I am so proud today to sit outside and watch the President sign into law the largest investment in our infrastructure to fix roads. For me, the priority is fixing the water infrastructure in America. A pothole is an inconvenience, but we need water to drink to stay alive and for human life.

We know we have kicked this can down the road. We have had so many infrastructure weeks. But now history will say that Joe Biden led the way with this Congress and this Senate to start investing in our infrastructure. We are going to get the job done. We are really going to build back better.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much, BRENDA LAWRENCE, for her leadership—breaking news.

Let me just say, as Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE said so well, we are not going to be quiet. Today, we heard President Joe Biden not be quiet. We

also had the opportunity to hear Vice President KAMALA HARRIS not be quiet.

When we talk about the Congressional Black Caucus, let me say thank you to Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, a former member of the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank Vice President HARRIS for leading by example, getting out there and fighting for our democracy and making sure that this is good for America.

As we talk about breaking news and not being quiet and women—Black women—taking leadership roles, it gives me great pleasure to introduce and yield to our newest member of the Congressional Black Caucus. She is someone who comes with a lot of leadership, talent, and skills. It is a double honor for me because she represents the great State of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is always good when you have a partner, so to be able to have a partner in Ohio's 11th District gives me great honor. The gentlewoman is someone who works hard, fights for her community, and understands the value of Build Back Better and what it will do with this once-in-a-generation action, transformational legislation.

Madam Speaker, that person I am talking about, my friend, my colleague, and my partner is none other than Congresswoman SHONTEL BROWN.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for her remarks; Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE; and my leader, my friend, my sister, and my mentor who is the chairwoman of the CBC, JOYCE BEATTY.

As I rise to make my first CBC Special Order hour speech, I would first like to thank my esteemed Congressional Black Caucus colleagues for welcoming me with open arms after I was sworn in as their newest member days ago; for playing a critical role getting the bipartisan infrastructure bill across the finish line, and for shining the spotlight today on another critical piece of the President's agenda, the Build Back Better Act.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus is often called the conscience of the Congress for good reason. The bipartisan infrastructure bill signed into law today by President Biden is a historic win for our economy, our communities, and the people of my district and from across this Nation.

Its provisions, from rebuilding our roads and bridges to expanding broadband access and ensuring every person has access to safe drinking water, are supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans. That is why politicians have talked about getting infrastructure done for years. But today, with critical support from the CBC, we are delivering results—real results—for the people.

But our work does not end there. We know the many challenges that have

been holding families and our economy back for generations: high healthcare costs, lack of access to affordable childcare, rising prescription drug prices, students locked out of higher education opportunities, and shameful increases in food and housing insecurity. We know that Black communities have been disproportionately impacted by these many challenges for far too long.

The answer to these challenges is not just more failed tax giveaways for huge corporations. The answer is to make investments in families to improve their lives, boost their paychecks, and lower their kitchen table costs.

The Build Back Better Act delivers desperately needed action to tackle these challenges and lower the everyday costs that burden working families. It lowers healthcare costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug costs for seniors and expanding the ACA to bring down rising premiums. It provides universal preschool for all 3- to 4-year-olds giving every student a chance to have a head start. It expands access to higher education by raising the maximum Pell grant and making large investments in HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions. It includes critical provisions to ensure no child goes hungry and every American has a roof over their head.

Our task now is to pass a bill that reflects the President's agenda and our values: to promote equity, to ensure everyone has the opportunity to find a good-paying job, and to put money back in the pockets of American families by lowering the costs of living. Together with the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the Build Back Better agenda is going to create millions of jobs, reduce poverty, and rebuild the backbone of our country—the middle class. This is what delivering for the American people looks like.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, as we bring this hour to a close, let me again thank our newest member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman SHONTEL BROWN for her words.

Let me conclude tonight's Special Order hour by saying to America: The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to lead and to take bold, decisive actions to build back better by passing the Build Back Better Act. We heard that it will create more housing, it will furnish jobs, and it will also finish the job of the Affordable Care Act. It will provide a Medicaid coverage gap, and it will also provide funding, as you have heard, Madam Speaker, for HBCUs and helping families in need, giving them a tax cut, as Congresswoman BROWN just highlighted for us, with the child tax credit to help ensure Americans' global competitiveness for the 21st century and unleashing the full potential of America's workers and families to thrive in the communities that we represent, especially those 17 million Americans represented by the Congressional Black Caucus. There are 17 million Black Americans, and then we look at some 80 million Americans.

So with that, tonight we bring to it to a close, but we will not be quiet.

It gives me great pleasure, Madam Speaker, to say thank you for letting us host the first hour on Build Back Better. Our power, our message, the Congressional Black Caucus.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2649. A letter from the Amery Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Manufacture, Sale, Wear, and Quality Control of Heraldic Items [Docket ID: USA-2018-HQ-00160] (RIN: 0702-AA70) received November 4, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2650. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Termination of Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Lead Acetate [Docket No. FDA-2017-C-1951] received November 1, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2651. A letter from the Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's interim final rule — Access to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) for Employees of Certain Tribally Controlled Schools (RIN: 3206-AO18) received September 28, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2652. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0263; Project Identifier AD-2020-01702-T; Amendment 39-21710; AD 2021-18-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.